

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Keiichi NITO	)	Examiner:
	)	
Application No.:	)	
	)	
Filed:	)	
	)	
For: Light Modulation Apparatus and Image	)	
Pickup Apparatus, and Drive Methods	)	
Thereof	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR  
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the

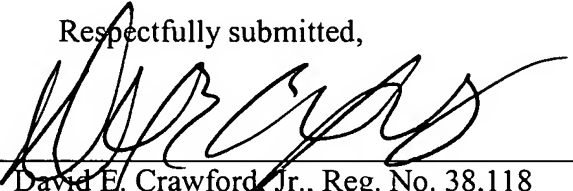
Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement  
Page 2

information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

All references contained in this Information Disclosure Statement may be found in the parent application, serial number 09/711,651.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Dated: 14 APR 04

Respectfully submitted,  
  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Crawford, Jr., Reg. No. 38,118  
Customer No. 26263  
314.259.5810

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	
				Group Art Unit	
				Keeichi NITO	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	
				09792909-5896	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	1	US-6,456,345 B1	09-24-2002	Ise	
	2	US-6,430,137 B1	08-06-2002	Saimi et al.	
	3	US-6,411,576 B1	06-25-2002	Furukawa et al.	
	4	US-6,407,727 B1	06-18-2002	Planger	
	5	US-6,201,588 B1	03-13-2001	Walton et al.	
	6	US-6,016,133	1-18-2000	Nito et al.	
	7	US-5,854,879	12-29-1998	Inuzuka et al.	
	8	US-5,669,022	09-16-1997	Kadohara et al.	
	9	US-5,333,075	07-26-1994	Harada et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	10	JP 11-326894 A	11-26-1999	Sony Corp.		<input type="checkbox"/>
	11	JP 10-268318 A	10-09-1998	Sharp Corp.		<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	Keeichi Nito
				Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name					
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	09792909-5896

OTHER ITEMS – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	12	BERREMAN, "Alignment of Liquid Crystals by Grooved Surfaces," Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals, 1973, pp. 215-231, Vol. 23.	
	13	Search Report of European Patent Application No. 00124646.1, mailed November 28, 2003.	

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